

Magazine: Hostages could be freed soon

BEIRUT (R) — The Beirut-based magazine *Al Sharaa* said Friday a deal under way between France and Iran could lead to the early release of some French hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants. The weekly, known for the first report of the 1986 U.S.-Iranian arms-for-hostages deal and for its close links to Iranian officials, quoted diplomats for its report. "Diplomats are talking about a deal between France and Iran which will lead to the release soon of a group of French hostages held in Lebanon," *Al Sharaa* said. "These diplomats refuse to go into details of the deal but say that if it succeeds it will be for the benefit of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac," it added. The magazine said French Ambassador Paul Blanck was called to Paris recently "where he was briefed on some details of the deal since the embassy will be involved in the release process." *Al Sharaa*'s report came amid talk in Paris that three French hostages might be released as a political tactic ahead of next month's presidential election. Speculation gathered pace Friday when a Frenchman of Lebanese origin suspected of being connected with bombings in Paris was freed from a French jail.

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Regent sends good wishes to Bangladesh and Malaysia

AMMAN (Pete) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday sent a cable to Bangladesh President Hussein Mohammad Ershad congratulating him on his country's National Day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Bangladesh further progress and prosperity. The Regent sent another cable to Sultan Mohammad Iskandar of Malaysia, congratulating him on assuming his constitutional powers and wishing him happiness and good health.

Arab League, PLO team in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A joint delegation of the Arab League and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) arrived in Lebanon Friday to seek backing for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. Arab League Assistant Secretary General Asaad Al Asaad and PLO representative Yasser Abd Rabbo told reporters at Beirut airport they would have talks with Lebanese officials on ways to support the uprising.

Cheysson calls for peace conference

NEW DELHI (AP) — Claude Cheysson, a member of the Commission of the European Community, said Friday he feared there would be more violence in the Israeli-occupied territories unless an international conference was held to resolve the region's problems. Such a conference should discuss not only the rights of Palestinians and Israelis but also the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, the status of Jerusalem and the future of Lebanon, he told a news conference. Without an international conference, Cheysson said, "Israel will go further and deeper in an avenue of violence, where violence breeds violence and more violence."

"Vanunu knew risks"

LONDON (R) — Britain's Sunday Times, the newspaper in which former Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu told the world his country had the atom bomb, said Thursday it had warned him of the possible consequences of his revelations. "When Vanunu came to the Sunday Times with his story we warned him of the risks he was taking. He said he was prepared to take them," Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil said in a statement. An Israeli court Thursday convicted Vanunu, 34, of espionage, helping Israel's enemies and disclosing state secrets for telling the London newspaper in 1986 that Israel was producing nuclear warheads. He faces a term of life imprisonment when sentenced Sunday.

Norway calls for U.N. force

OSLO (R) — Norway repeated its call Friday for a U.N. peace-keeping force in the Gulf to help stop attacks on shipping, saying it was willing to contribute. Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg told reporters: "We will get in touch with Greece, Spain, Japan and the Nordic countries to see if there is interest for a broader U.N. initiative, as well as raising the question with Washington."

Gunman attacks Alitalia pilot in Bombay

BOMBAY (AP) — An attacker shot and wounded the captain of an Italian jetliner Friday after the plane landed at Bombay's airport and tossed two grenades at passengers before he was captured, authorities said. The assailant fired four shots from an automatic pistol at Vittorino Sanatanillo, who had landed the Alitalia airliner a few minutes earlier after a flight from Alitalia. Police said Sanatanillo and 12 other crew members were climbing onto an airport bus bound for a city hotel when they were attacked. Police sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attacker was identified as Abbas Mohammad Ali Shahidi.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جريدة تابع يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Iraq sends Lebanon arms, food

BEIRUT (R) — Iraq has sent a shipload of arms and ammunition to Lebanon's armed forces and presidential guards, security sources said Friday as Baghdad announced the arrival of a consignment of food aid. The sources confirmed a report in Beirut's *Al Safir* newspaper that the 900-ton Greek-registered George Z arrived at Beirut port Thursday carrying the weapons. The daily quoted Cypriot shipping sources for its report which said the vessel carried medium and heavy weapons for the army and President Amin Gemayel's guards. The sources said another cargo ship docked at Beirut Friday with 36,000 tonnes of food donated by Baghdad. Iraq's chargé d'affaires in Lebanon, Sami Al Hadithi, told reporters after meeting Gemayel Friday that food worth \$13 million had arrived and would be distributed by official organisations and charities. "I have met the Lebanese president and conveyed to him the decision of President Saddam Hussein to donate food supplies to the Lebanese people," he said.

17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference concludes

OIC supports Palestinians, backs Saudi moves, urges peace in Gulf

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency reports

AMMAN — Foreign ministers of Islamic countries ended an annual conference here Friday united in extending total support for the Palestinian uprising, calling for an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict and condemning Iran for the July 1987 riots in the Holy City of Mecca.

The Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict figured high on the resolutions of the 17th conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers. The conference

dealt with over 70 working papers and proposals submitted by the 45 member states over the past five days.

The final resolutions stressed the need for Islamic states to

exert efforts to force Israel to heed United Nations resolutions calling for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The resolution on this issue pointed out that just peace have to be based on total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al Quds Al Sharif, recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, to self-determination and to the "establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their national soil with Al Quds as capital and under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), their legitimate and sole representative."

U.S. policy assailed

The resolution also denounced the United States policy which "continues to deny the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, to ignore the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative, and refuse to deal with it as a main party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and continue to extend unlimited support to the Zionist enemy in its occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories, including the city of Al Quds Al Sharif."

The resolution denounced the United States' use of its right of veto power to prevent the adoption by the U.N. Security Council

(Continued on page 5)



Foreign Minister Taha Al Masri chairs the closing session of the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Amman Friday (photo by Yasser Al 'Allan)

Aziz accuses Iran of anti-OIC propaganda

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz has accused Iran of "not only waging an aggressive war against Iraq but also a war of propaganda" against the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Aziz, commenting on Iran's withdrawal from the 17th conference of OIC foreign ministers held in Amman, told the Jordan Times in an exclusive interview Thursday that a speech delivered by the Iranian delegate to the conference Wednesday night was "full of allegations and twisted

facts and contained attacks on a number of Islamic countries."

"This proves that Iran is not only waging an aggressive war against Iraq but also a war of propaganda against Islamic countries and the Islamic organisation itself."

Aziz refuted Iranian charges that Iraq used chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. "Iranians are just trying to justify their failures," he said. "They are definitely going to extraordinary measures to try and ward off worldwide protests against Tehran's policies."

"This accusation is only a camouflage for their (Iran's) ex-

pansionist policies," he said.

In reply to a question on the latest round of the "war of the cities" between Baghdad and Tehran, Aziz said missile attacks on cities were "not new phenomenon in the war." He said that Iran had attacked Baghdad in 1980 and had been firing missiles at Baghdad periodically since then. "We showed a great deal of tolerance," he said, "but they went too far."

Aziz said Iraq does not want to

continue the war but that Iran

refuses to accept any peace proposal which would contribute to a

just and comprehensive peace in

the area.

"We do not want to escalate

this war, but Iran has refused to

accept (United Nations Security Council) Resolution 598, and has

continuously attacked our cities,"

Aziz said. "One has to remember that we have to preserve some

dignity."

Aziz cited last July's Iranian

riots in Mecca as example of

Iran's disregard for Islamic unity.

"Iran organised the demonstra-

tions to destabilise the process of

Haj and the state of affairs in Saudi Arabia in a clear violation of international laws," he said.

Aziz paid tribute to the Palestinian national uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and described it as a "historic phenomenon and most dramatic proof that the Palestinians refuse to accept Israel's occupation and will not tolerate it."

Aziz added that "the uprising

also shows a genuine quest for

(Continued on page 5)

Correction

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign ministry Friday denied international news agency reports, carried by the Jordan Times, that it had channelled to the 17th conference of Islamic foreign ministers a message from Bulgarian Muslim leaders.

The message dealt with the issue of Muslims in Bulgaria, and which was the subject of a report that an Islamic contact group had submitted to the conference earlier in the week.

After Palestinians attacked soldiers in a school converted into a makeshift army headquarters.

In Hebron, troops shot at Arabs who pelted soldiers with rocks from the roof of a mosque and raised the Palestinian flag after Muslim prayers.

About 30 soldiers stormed the Al-Hara mosque, yanked the flags down and lined up dozens of Palestinian teenagers against a wall. The army said 50 Arabs were arrested.

Friday's fatalities brought to 111 the number of Palestinians killed since the uprising began Dec. 8, according to U.N. figures. One Israeli soldier has been killed.

Edward Said, a professor at Columbia University in New York, and Ibrahim Abu Lughud, a professor at Northwestern University in Chicago, are members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, and closely linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The brief State Department announcement identified Said and Abu Lughud only as "prominent Americans with an intimate knowledge of contemporary Middle Eastern politics."

Said and Abu Lughud could not be reached immediately for

(Continued on page 5)

Reagan warns Israel over Saudi missiles

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan warned Israel Friday against a pre-emptive strike against Chinese-built missiles bought from Peking.

But, it said, the practice runs might have nothing to do with the missiles and be connected instead with raids on Palestinian targets in Lebanon over the past few days.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuter Washington was concerned that the introduction of such weapons into the Middle East might have a destabilising effect.

But they said Saudi Arabia had "assured us at the highest level categorically" it was not seeking nuclear warheads for the missiles and Peking had also given categorical assurances it would not supply them.

They said Washington's concern was not about the missiles, but the possibility the Saudis would tip them with nuclear warheads.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned Thursday that an Israeli attack on the Saudi missile launchers would "blow up the entire peace process" in the Middle East.

It said the practices might for

shadow a pre-emptive strike on the CSS-2 class missiles with a 3,500-kilometre range Saudi Arabia

has bought from Peking.

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Pakistan's chief delegate, Zain Noorani, told reporters: "Cer-

tainly it would help... if people

were to come to try to tackle the

issue of symmetry in Geneva."

U.N. tries to save Afghan plan

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez fought Friday to save an Afghan peace plan after the superpowers failed to resolve a dispute over Soviet military supplies to Afghanistan, official and diplomatic sources said.

"We are putting up a fight to

try to save the agreement," one

official source quoted by Reuter

said.

Diplomats had looked to this

week's meeting between Soviet

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington to break the stalemate in the Geneva talks, which are designed to secure the withdrawal of Soviet

troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union has already

said it will pull out its estimated

115,000 troops from Afghanistan

but the United States and Pakistan have insisted that it stops

military aid too.

In an attempt to settle the

Soviet aid issue, Cordovez has

asked the superpowers to send

more senior negotiators than the

two in Geneva — U.S. Deputy

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck and Soviet Ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozyrev,

sources close to the talks told

Reuters.

Soviet and U.S. spokesman

said they were unable to say

whether higher officials would be

coming.

Pakistan's chief delegate, Zain

Response farming: From intuition to computers

Nermeen Murad interviews Dr. Ian Stewart on his 'response farming' method

AMMAN — Development in technology has reshaped all aspects of our life, making people less and less dependent on the normal flow of nature. But one man felt that a serious study of nature and a close analysis of its trends, using modern technological means, may pay off in the long run.

Dr. Ian Stewart, president of the world Hunger Alleviation Through Response Farming (WHARF), a non-profit organisation, introduced through his "response farming," a method of forecasting rain and making appropriate agronomic responses at the farm level.

According to Stewart, this system allows farmers to choose crops and determine acreages, along with seed and initial fertilisation rates, all on the basis of the date of onset. The date of onset is determined by the time when there is sufficient rain water in the ground to soak the soil down to the depth of the seed, enough to germinate the seed and maintain the seedling.

Response farming is most beneficial to small farmers who face the greatest risks. According to Stewart, small farmers have grown in numbers and more of them have been forced deeper into drought-prone zones and at the same time further from the infrastructure that might provide famine relief in an emergency.

Stewart told the Jordan Times that if food production in these marginal rainfall areas could be stabilised and increased, tragedy on the land could be averted and internal solutions to the hunger problems of refugees and the urban poor greatly strengthened.

According to Stewart, "farmers in Jordan understand and practice this method by instinct." He added that his role was to make it more clear so that they would make better jobs of their farming.

Stewart said that clarifying this process to Jordanian farmers aids them in making their farming process more economical. "They would determine how much fertiliser to use and when is the best time for its use; also it helps them decide how much machinery they need, thus eliminating unnecessary expenditure."

Certain areas

Farmers interviewed by the Jordan Times maintained that this method would only work in certain areas of Jordan, and not in the Jordan Valley.

One farmer said that although this method has always been adopted by farmers in the area it remains "old fashioned and would not keep up with the level of development in Jordan."

He added that farmers who asked to adopt the rain-fed irrigation method had become so frustrated with their inability to control the water that they moved to areas that have more water.

An agricultural engineer who has a masters degree in rain-fed irrigation maintained that this

method would bring best results if coupled with supplemental irrigation as in the eastern areas of Jordan where it has been tried and has proved successful.

The engineer added that 70 per cent of Jordan's land is not farming land and therefore farmers had to make the best out of what was left. He added that although the idea was in theory good, in Jordan it would be difficult to reach the date of onset since 80 per cent of the water evaporates and only 20 per cent of the rain water is absorbed into the earth.

All those interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed, though, that the adoption of this method would almost guarantee "better financial return when successful, because the expenses would be lower."

Stewart is also working on the Jordan highlands agricultural development project (JHADP), administered by U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) mission and the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture. His role is to hold seminars with different agricultural officials and professors and to introduce new concepts to them. He provides the Ministry of Agriculture with a computer programme which holds a climatic data bank that is being used to provide information on response farming.

Farmers do respond

In a case study for Jordan prepared by him, Stewart maintains that Jordanian cereal farmers traditionally practice some of the tenets of response farming and that wheat and barley farmers in Jordan delay planting until they have assessed the early rains, and adjust the planted area accordingly; with high rainfall they expand the planted area and with low rainfall they contract it.

In the case study, a graph indicated how wheat and barley fields in Irbid, Balqa and south Amman varied with rainfall over the nine-year period from 1968/69 to 1976/77.

The table shows that Jordanian cereal farmers are already taking the first step in response farming. When onset of the rainy season for wheat or barley production is delayed, they plant a smaller area, because experience has taught them that late onset means little or no profit, and a greater probability of failure.

According to Stewart, farmers planting wheat in scarce rainfall seasons do this only to cover their families basic food needs.

In answer to a question about the wisdom behind subsidising farmers in Jordan and the support the government has been accorded the agricultural sector, Stewart said "I have strong feelings about this, and basically this is the right thing to do."

But he added that "a line has to be drawn at a reasonable point."

According to Stewart, "it is very intelligent to develop agriculture and to try to be able to reach self sufficiency in foodstuff, even if one is able to buy the

same product from outside at a lower price."

Stewart said that certain caution had to be taken in Jordan's food security programme. So far, Stewart explained, Jordan had been backing wheat planting, but it should not be planted every year.

Stewart added that the Ministry of Agriculture should also be "more sensitive to the real problems of local farmers," since they remain the authority on what is best for their farming land.

Steadfast farmers

The government has been asking farmers to plant on a certain date without calculating rainfall, and farmers have so far refused to adhere to this policy. According to Stewart the farmers were right in their stand because in most cases "planting before onset of the rain for growing the study crop."

There is a tendency in the Government farming policies towards aggregation of the land." The idea behind aggregation is to control all the different farming units and incorporate them into one plan administered by a single body, in this case the government. Stewart stressed that he is not against the idea, but he also added that this must be done under the leadership of the local farmers and not the officials who formulate policies from offices.

Stewart explained that "some one told me that the government should take over all the farming

records, primarily rainfall and evaporation, coupled with suitable research findings concerning crops and soils, permits evaluation of the suitability of a given crop for production at the planning site, and defines the earliest and latest acceptable dates of onset of the rain for growing the study crop."

These studies also quantify the initial rainfall which should be taken by the farmer as the signal to plant his crop, and reveal that date of onset of the rain is correlated with total season rain; hence it pinpoints ranges of dates properly termed early, late and too late for planting, and quantifies early season rainfall amounts which can indicate whether a good, fair or poor season is in store.

According to Stewart, the application of this information occurs at three stages:



The date of onset of the rain triggers recommendations to farmers on the date of planting, seeding rates and initial fertilizer application.

Rainfall totals, 50 days after the date of onset in the short period rain and 30-40 days into the long season rain, permit categorisation of season

type and determine farmer recommendation on thinning to desired stands and on adjustment of nitrogen fertilizer levels through side dressing.

According to Stewart, "the date of onset alone can effectively guide farmers in deciding whether to emphasise high or low water requirement crops."

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — March 26, 1988

8:30 Yes Prime Minister
New Series

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film
All The Kind Strangers

Starring:
Stacy Keach
Samantha Eggar
John Savage
Robby Benson

This tale of quiet terror begins with photographer-journalist Keach giving a young boy a ride to his secluded farmhouse. There he meets the rest of the kids and a young woman whom they call mother.

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Sun. — March 27, 1988

8:30 My Husband and I

My Husband and I, starring Molley Sudgen plays Nora Powers, head of personnel at a big advertising Agency.

9:10 Doc. — Coasteau

10:20 Secret Army

The Execution

Spring 1945. The Germans find

time for their own retributions. Monique and Madeleine have to make the most important decisions of their lives. The Second World War is over.

Mon. — March 28, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film
A Star is Born

Frederic March, Janet Gaynor, Adolphe Menjou, Lionel Stander. Here's the original version of the poignant, dramatic story about a famous Hollywood star whose popularity declines as his young actress-wife reaches stardom. March, as the matinee idol on the skids, and Gaynor, as his loyal wife, are perfectly cast and keep the story from slipping into cheap sentimentality. The direction by William Wellman hits the right note, and the fine screenplay by Dorothy Parker, Alan Campbell and Robert Carson reveals a great deal about Hollywood in the 30's.

Wed. — March 29, 1988

8:30 Sweet Surrender

The Holdens Go To Dinner

9:00 Doc. — Horizon
The Brain; How it works

9:25 Tales of the Unexpected
Skeleton in the Cupboard

Executive Robert Smythe (Charles Dance) is an ambitious man on his way to the top. He's horrified to learn that a stranger is trying to trace him, and ruthlessly determines to cover up a guilty secret from his past. But,

Thur. — March 31, 1988

8:30 No Place Like Home

9:10 Standby.... Light!

Spring 1945. The Germans find

The episode is about the famous star Roger Moore, focusing at his films and his role as "James Bond."

10:20 Murder She Wrote
No Laughing Murder

11:10 Three's Company
Janet's Promotion

After the male manager quits, Janet runs the shop efficiently with the help of Chloe, a new employee with an eye-catching figure, but doubts that the chauvinist owner Mr. Compton, would promote a woman. Then Compton makes an announcement that tempts Janet to seek a new image.

12:30 Fields of Fire

Agatha Christie's

Murder in Three Acts

by macabre coincidence, his wife Margaret (Zoe Wanamaker) confesses that she, too, has something to hide.

12:30 Kate and Allie

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film

Agatha Christie's

Murder in Three Acts

12:30 Growing Pains

Starring:

Peter Ustinov

Tony Curtis

Emma Samms

In Acapulco world-famous detec-

tive Hercule Poirot must solve the seemingly impossible murder of a reverend and the subsequent poisoning of an eminent neurologist.

Fri. — April 1, 1988

8:30 Growing Pains

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Richman, Poorman



Murder in Three Acts — Peter Ustinov stars as Hercule Poirot, Thursday at 10:20

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TAXIS:

Khaled taxi 62715

Ahli taxi 621127

Shmeisani taxi 665394

Qasem taxi 671620

Jihad taxi 672563

Nablus taxi 821253

Al Uza taxi 668154

TAXIS:

Dr. Mah'd Khalil 726897

Shara'i pharmacy 725825

ZARQA:

Dr. Al Latif Al Sharbini 987725

Khalidieh pharmacy 985417

Crown Prince receives 5th medical team from Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent Thursday received the 5th Jordanian medical team, who returned from Sudan after finishing the first stage of Jordan's assistance programme to Sudan.

Prince Hassan expressed appreciation to the Sudanese people and officials for the support extended to the Jordanian medical teams, "who were received with all appreciation and hospitality."

The Crown Prince also stressed Jordan's interest in supporting Arab countries, in line with Jordan's firm policy to pursue pan-Arab interests and to achieve Arab solidarity.

Prince Hassan also thanked all Arab and Muslim institutions for their support to the works of the Jordanian National Committee for Supporting the Sudanese People, and pointed out in particular to the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which has pledged sufficient financial support to the committee.



SUBEIHI GETS AWARD: Health Minister Zaid Humzeh Thursday decorated the former Health Ministry Secretary General Sulaiman Al Subeih with Jordan's Al Kawakib Medal of the Second Order which was conferred on him by His Majesty King Hussein. Subeih recently retired after 35 years of service with the ministry (Petra photo).

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KING FAHD SENDS CABLE: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a reply cable from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, thanking King Hussein for the heartfelt feelings expressed in his cable to the Saudi monarch at the end of his visit to Riyadh. King Fahd wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday delegated Royal Court Secretary General Bassam Al Saket to convey his condolences to Al Fayed family over the death of the late Mansour Al Fayed. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also delegated Commander of the Badia and Border Police Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah to convey his condolences to Al Fayed family.

REGENT RECEIVES MESSAGE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday received a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Sierra Leone President Gen. Joseph Saidu Momoh. The message was delivered to the Regent by Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kuromo during a special audience at the Royal Court.

CABLE TO GREECE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable to Greek President Christos Sartzetakis, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Greek people further progress and prosperity.

REGENT RECEIVES MINISTERS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday received Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, in the presence of Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassim Hussein. Prince Hassan also received in separate audiences, Pakistani Minister of Planning, Trade and Development Mahboubul Haq, Somali Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Hamed and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Humayoun Chowdhury.

SWISS DELEGATION: A Swiss economic delegation led by Ministry of Economy Under Secretary arrived in Amman Thursday to take part in the Joint Jordanian-Swiss Economic Committee meetings, due to open here Saturday.

TABBA'A MEETS U.K. ENVOY: Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabba'a Thursday discussed with the British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve, bilateral relations in the fields of commerce and trade and means for further enhancing them.

TIES WITH COMOROS: Higher Education Minister Nasseruddin Al Assad Thursday discussed with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and External Trade in the Comoros Islands, means of enhancing bilateral relations and providing a number of scholarships in Jordan to students from the Comoros.

TV FESTIVAL: Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasem Thursday inaugurated Baghdad Television Festival, which is attended by 495 Arab and international television corporations and companies and some 200 well known artists, including 50 Arab artists.

VISIT TO BRIDGES: A fact-finding mission Friday visited King Hussein Bridge where they were briefed by the police director there on the procedures taken by the Jordanian security forces to facilitate the arrival and departure of people from and to the West Bank, and the difficulties they encounter from the Israeli occupation authorities.

MUFTI GIVES PRIZES: Director General of Noor Al Hussein Foundation In'am Al Mufti has distributed prizes to 11 children who have won in drawing and short story competition.

EGYPTIAN PUBLICATIONS: Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Qatanani Thursday inaugurated the second exhibition of Egyptian publications held at the Professional Associations Union building.

DRAWING AWARDS: Education Ministry Secretary General Radi Al Waqfi and the Czechoslovak Charge d'Affaires in Amman Emil Hrusecky Thursday presented awards to six Jordanian children who have won children's drawing competition, organised by the Czechoslovak government. 27 Jordanian children took part in the international drawing competition in 1987.

POLICE ACADEMY: Director of the Police Academy Col. Mohamad Anwar Al Boul Thursday graduated non-commissioned officers who have successfully completed two training courses.

HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION: Qasr Education Department in Karak Governorate Thursday held a handicraft and audiovisual aids exhibition at the Rabba Agricultural Secondary School.

TRAINING COURSE ENDS: A training course on letters of credit attended by 24 financial officers from various financial, industrial and commercial institutions in Jordan and Qatar concluded in Amman Thursday.

LECTURE BY SHAER: Dr. Jamal Al Shaer will deliver a lecture on "our pressing issues and means of addressing them" Saturday at the Abdul Haq Shoman Foundation's Cultural and Scientific Centre.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi Thursday presents an award to one of the winners of poetry contest at Marj Al Hamam Secondary School (Petra photo)

Ministry to cancel 2-shift system in government schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi has said his ministry was planning to cancel the two-shift system, currently used in government schools.

During an open dialogue Thursday in Ajloun district, Hindawi said that the Ministry of Education has set a schedule to implement the new one-shift system within the next five years.

"The ministry will have, by then, prepared and completed the construction of new schools and education centres," he added.

The minister called for joining all efforts with regard to enhancing the educational process and to surpass the hurdles imposed on the path to progress and development.

Underlining the importance of training manpower for better education, the minister unveiled a new unified allowances system for government employees, including teachers, saying it was in progress.

Also Thursday, Hindawi inaugurated the Ministry of Education schools' poetry and oration festival which was held at Marj Al Hamam Secondary Vocational School.

Taking part in the festival are 14 students who had already won in poetry and oration contests, held during the scholastic year.

The festival aims to promote the use of Arabic language and develop skills of making orations and poetry writing. At the end of the celebration Hindawi presented winners with awards.

Hijazi, Swiss law maker discuss Mideast peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament First Deputy Speaker Ismail Hijazi Thursday reaffirmed Jordan's firm stand in calling for an international Middle East peace conference, to be attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the parties involved in the conflict, as the only forum for establishing a just and durable peace in the region.

During a meeting with the Speaker of the Lower House in Swiss canton of Schwyz, Hijazi said King Hussein has been making intensive efforts to convene such a conference, in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

Hijazi noted that the current uprising in the occupied territories, which has entered its fourth month, is the natural outcome of the continued Israeli occupation and its brutal measures, which contravene with all international charters and norms and violates the humanitarian law.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Hijazi said the war has expanded to reach other Gulf Arab countries, who are not direct parties to the conflict.

He added that the arrival of external powers to the region constitutes a grave situation and thus poses threat to international peace.

Hijazi also reviewed the history of the parliamentary life in Jordan and stressed that the Upper and Lower Houses translate the aspirations of the Jordanian people.

The guest praised Jordan's sincere efforts to develop friendly relations between both countries and said that King Hussein's recent visit to Switzerland has opened up new scopes of cooperation.

8,540 students are attending Ain Al Pasha training school

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 8,540 students are receiving vocational education at Ain Al Pasha Vocational Training Centre, 635 of whom are enrolled in long-term training programmes, the centre's Director Farouq Al Nimir said Thursday.

Nimir added that the centre,

which is the largest and which cost some JD 2.5 million, can accommodate 1,200 students in 12 different trades offered to students from the first and second years.

Nimir said that the centre maintains close cooperation with some 500 employers.

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Experts call for reexamination of children's literature

Seminar urges communication with children through all available outlets

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Subsidising children's books, encouraging children's literature in the local press, and communicating with children by all means of available educational outlets, are some of the recommendations that were announced after an intensive two-day seminar on children's literature in Jordan.

The seminar, organised by the National Organisation for the Education of Children, ended Thursday evening calling on the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage to establish children's educational institutions, and for government and private institutions to support resistance literature in Jordan.

Based on the findings of the study, Ulayyan outlined the problems facing the thirteen government and private-run children's libraries. He said the budget of all libraries surveyed lacked financial support.

He also found that there was a lack of books and periodicals.

Ulayyan discovered a lack of qualified or trained staff (librarians), and found that there was carelessness towards books where they were found torn or unturned.

He added that in most cases the building or location of libraries were unsuitable, and that they were often too crowded and noisy. The study also found that there was unawareness among both children and their parents on libraries and their function.

The seminar also called on research studies to be conducted on children's creativity in the country, and classifying children's books and stories to comply with their school curricula.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, and head of the National Association for the Education of Children, Dr. Mohammad Squir announced at the end of the seminar that an award will be presented to the best Jordanian writer of children's literature in October of every year.

The seminar, held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, included 18 working papers, eleven of which were presented Thursday. Among the papers introduced was Rihab Ulayyan's findings of a survey conducted on children's libraries in Jordan.

Another paper presented by Hussein Hasanein on the effect of the Israeli occupation on children's literature, suggesting that Arab educational institutions and establishments intensify efforts to execute article 44 of the Arab Children's Rights Convention: "This article stresses the utmost

importance of the welfare of Palestinian children inside and outside the occupied territories, and to support Palestinian institutions that care for the children and support their struggle to regain their legitimate rights."

Hasanein also suggested at the end of his paper that there should be more interest among Arab writers on the Palestinian cause, and studies to be carried out on Palestinian literature and folkloric.

He added that there should be support in all possible ways for the development of Palestinian children's literature writers and support for their publication.

The speaker went on to say that there should be translations to and from Arabic of books for children in Palestine, and to urge universities inside and outside the occupied territories to coordinate with Palestinian institutions in the cultural awareness and importance of children's literature.

"There should be work towards publishing and exposing Zionist brutality against Palestinian children. And there should be special sections in our local press that discuss children's issues and problems in the occupied territories," suggested Hasanein, adding that there ought to be a national fund to support writers in the occupied territories.

Effects of foreign culture

An expert librarian at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Mary Fasheh outlined positive and negative effects of foreign cultures on children's literature in Jordan. She outlined the positive impact of foreign influence from a cultural, scientific, social, ethical, moral, and technical points of view.

Fasheh said from a moral

aspect, many foreign books deal with self-reliance, exploration and discovery, reading and organisation. "If these morals are found in foreign books then we accept and respect them," she noted.

From the negative point of view, Fasheh explained that in many translations, there are colloquial, unnecessary expressions and foreign expressions that are printed. She added that sometimes the fantasies and morals of some of those stories could be damaging, adding that there are many "silly subjects" discussed.

Fasheh recommended that there be a serious study conducted on the needs of Jordanian children that cannot be found in local publications. "There should be another study carried out to determine standards and morals of our environment, and to discover what morals we have inherited from past centuries and to update these morals to suit our modern times," she noted.

The expert suggested that the positive Arabic characteristic — such as generosity, cooperation and loyalty — be evaluated in the existing literature and to use the characteristics that are not there to include them in literature.

"Sexism in children's literature in Jordan" was presented by writer Zuleikha Abu Rishieh, in which she called on getting rid of sexism in children's literature.

She said that there should be equal representation of male and female personalities and equal distribution of roles among men and women in all aspects of life.

"There should be equal distribution of psychological, physical and emotional characteristics, and we must get rid of sexist language in children's literature," Abu Rishieh said.

Workshop on innovation in educational system ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day workshop on educational developments and innovations, organised by the ministry of education, in cooperation with a pan-Arab regional unit in charge of educational innovations for Arab development, concluded here Thursday.

The workshop focused on the national educational innovations network and Jordan's role in making the educational innovation programme a success.

Participants also discussed the educational innovations programme for development with concentration on development concepts.



FAYEZ RETURNS: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed and a Jordanian parliamentary delegation Thursday returned home at the end of a three-day official visit to Egypt, during which they met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Fayed also met with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef

Sedki, Peoples National Assembly Speaker Rifa'a Mahjoub and the Shura (Consultative) Council, and reviewed with them bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region (Petra photo)

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Continued from page one

Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference concludes

(Continued from page 1)

of some resolutions on the question of Palestine and the Middle East in contradiction with its responsibility as a superpower responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

Support for uprising

The conference also adopted a resolution on the Palestinian uprising and called the Arab revolt and affirmed Islamic support of the Palestinian people in their "jihad and blessed uprising."

The conference decided to set up committees throughout the Islamic World to provide the Palestinian people with material and moral assistance.

It also called upon all member states to continue to provide the Palestinian people with all forms of urgent and effective official and popular support.

Iranian pullout

The adoption of three resolutions pertaining to the Iran-Iraq conflict, sanctity of holy places and Haj rites, special measures designed to organise and specify the number of pilgrims appeared to be behind Iran's withdrawal from the meeting Thursday.

Iran's delegate to the conference, Mohammad A.B. Al-Tashkri, said Thursday his delegation totally withdrew from the meeting because of what he described as pressures by some representatives against Iran.

In a letter to OIC Secretary General Sharifuddin Fizzati, Tashkri said the political committee of the conference had approved some resolutions "which were directly against the Islamic Republic of Iran, namely: on the Iran-Iraq war, limiting the number of pilgrims, and the sanctity of the Muslim holy places in Mecca."

"My delegation feels that great pressures are being exerted by some countries to lead this session to their specific goals. Therefore, my delegation declares its full withdrawal from the seventeenth foreign ministers meeting," Tashkri said.

The resolution on the Iran-Iraq war supported Security Council Resolution 598 and emphasised the need for its implementation as an indivisible whole and the application of all its provisions.

The Islamic countries also urged the Security Council to take the necessary measures vis-a-vis Iran for not having announced its acceptance of Resolution 598.

Support for S. Arabia

Two resolutions — one presented by Jordan and the other by Saudi Arabia — dealt with the July's Mecca

riots and with measures that Saudi Arabia intends to adopt to prevent further harassment to pilgrims.

The resolution on sanctity of holy places and Haj rites condemned the "acts of disruption and sabotage perpetrated by the Iranian pilgrims in Holy Mecca during the Haj season."

The conference decided to hold the next foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 1989 and the 19th conference in Egypt.

The next OIC summit is scheduled to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in 1990.

A mini-summit of OIC summit will be held in Kuwait April 10-11.

The conference elected Hamed Al Gabel of Niger as secretary general for a four-year term beginning Jan. 1, 1989.

PLO delegate Jamal Al Sourani, a member of the organisation's executive committee, told the meeting's closing session that Israel represented a threat to the entire Islamic World.

"The danger is clear. It doesn't threaten only the Palestinian people, but all of us," he said. "They began in Palestine and their claws reached Lebanon and Syria and will reach the farthest Islamic country."

Successful conference

The conference's chairman, Foreign Minister Tamer Al Massi, declared the meeting a success and said the political resolutions were unanimously endorsed with few members expressing reservations.

Speaking at a press conference following the closing session, Massi said there were no objections registered on political issues but that some differences were observed on the drafting, but not contents of resolutions. He said slight amendments were made.

Massi told journalists that deliberations "went very smoothly" and that there was "a great measure of cooperation" among the delegations.

The foreign minister said that Saudi Arabia had requested to host the 18th session of the OIC meeting and that Egypt offered to host the 19th session. He said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharar registered his country's opposition to holding the 19th conference in Cairo, because of Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel. The resolution was passed any way, Massi said.

The conference condemned the U.S. decision to close the office of the PLO mission to the U.N. The conference considered the U.S. move as a "flagrant challenge levelled at the Palestinian people and their inalienable national rights as well as their natural and legitimate right to submit, through the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, their just cause to the international community."

The conference also adopted resolutions condemning Israel's buildup of nuclear arsenal and the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel.

It also called on member states which maintain relations with Israel

Afghanistan

The conference adopted a resolution calling for an immediate Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and welcoming Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement that the Soviet Union wants to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and expressed hope that "comprehensive political solution would be expeditiously reached so that conditions of peace and equality are created in Afghanistan and Afghan refugees could return to their homes with dignity and honour."

The resolution also requested that the Islamic Development Bank study the "magnitude of the needs of Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and to draw up specific programmes for participation by the bank and OIC member states in the process of economic reconstruction in Afghanistan."

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It also called on member states which maintain relations with Israel

Shultz meets PNC members today

(Continued from page 1)

"terrorism" and refuses to give explicit recognition to Israel.

However, U.S. officials are in regular contact with Palestinian sources and Shultz himself had talks in Washington in January with two Palestinians, editor Hanna Siniora and lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme.

Shamir Friday told U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering of Israel's reaction.

"Mr. Shamir told U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering he viewed the meeting with grave and serious concern because the United States guaranteed in 1973 it would not meet PLO members, barring certain conditions which have not been met," said Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner.

Pickering briefed Shamir on talks between Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington this week which showed deep differences over an international Mid-

East peace conference.

Fazner also said Pickering informed Shamir that Shultz had not yet taken a decision on whether he would return to the Middle East to pursue his peace efforts.

A former Israeli ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, told Jordan Radio that both Said and Abu Lughud were official members of PLO delegations to the United Nations General Assembly in the late 1970s.

An opinion poll in the Israeli daily newspaper Yediot Acharonot said 49 per cent of Israelis questioned supported the Shultz initiative while 43 per cent opposed it. The others had no opinion.

Israel Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel should accept Shultz's proposals.

"I am convinced that we should give (Shultz) a positive answer," he told students at Tel Aviv University.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharar was quoted as saying Friday that Washington promised to twist Israel's arm to force it to accept an international Middle East peace conference — but the opposite happened.

Libyan stand

The Libyan foreign minister has reiterated his country's position that the "Zionist-Arab conflict arises from the existence of a Jewish state in the area."

Jadallah Azzouz Al Tashkri said "Zionists threaten the Arab existence in the area" and that this is evident

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Detained Gaza lawyer reports prison injustices

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM
(Agencies) — A Palestinian human rights lawyer imprisoned without trial along with hundreds of other Palestinians has said his only crime was telling the truth.

"My crime was that I was telling the truth about the violations of human rights against my people," Abu Shaban said in a statement released to Reuters by his Israeli lawyer.

An Israeli military spokesman said he was jailed for unspecified hostile activities within the Gaza Lawyers' Association, of which he is vice-chairman.

Abu Shaban catalogued more than 3,000 people held at Gaza's Ansar-2 detention camp and tried to expose cases of beatings and mistreatment.

He was working on a lawsuit in the Israeli high court of justice over the use of torture against three clients when he was arrested, his Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer said.

Abu Shaban is now himself being held at Ansar-2 under "administrative detention." This allows the Israeli military authorities to hold a person for six months without trial.

Under new regulations, lower-

ranking officers can now order such detentions without judicial review.

The Jerusalem Post reported Thursday that 350 Palestinians had been administratively detained during the past week. Lawyer, who visited Shaban Wednesday, estimated that nearly 400 Palestinians are now detained without trial.

Israeli military spokesmen have not responded to repeated requests for an official figure of "administrative detentions."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that 3,000 people have been arrested since the Palestinian uprising began on December 9, but Palestinians say the figure is probably about 6,000.

Those arrested under normal procedures have rights to a judicial hearing.

But Palestinian lawyers said that charged prisoners, some of whom were imprisoned for months without trial, waited by the busload outside overburdened military courthouses.

In Gaza, lawyers are on strike to protest at farcical production-line trials of alleged protesters in military courts.

Iran-contra case in court; defendants plead innocence

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan's former aides Oliver North and John Poindexter and two associates have pleaded innocent to Iran-contra scandal charges, setting the stage for a legal battle unprecedented since Watergate.

Resolutions adopted by the conference contained a denunciation of the American attack and a demand that Libya be compensated.

Massi said the conference stopped short of condemning Iran for rejecting peace initiatives and said OIC member states called on Iran to accept Resolution 598. He said the resolution on the Gulf war was in line with the resolutions adopted by last November's Amman Arab summit.

Asked to elaborate on Saudi Arabia's decision to limit the numbers of pilgrims to Mecca, Massi said the conference "left it up to Saudi Arabia to carry out the resolutions as it wishes."

On the recent American peace initiative, the conference chairman said that Jordan was comparing notes with Egypt and other Arab states on the proposals. He said the issue was discussed in general terms in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general.

Aziz said the resolutions clearly called for condemning Iranian attacks on Iraq and expressed solidarity with Iraq. But he said, "after the summit, Syrian officials visited Tehran and made statements that contradicted the essence of the summit resolutions."

Aziz described as balanced a compromise resolution on the Afghanistan problem saying that the conference supported the Soviet decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Massi said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was one of three main topics that drew the attention of conference, who, he said, expressed their understanding and appreciation of the uprising's full implications and dimensions.

Aziz said the resolutions clearly called for condemning Iranian attacks on Iraq and expressed solidarity with Iraq. But he said, "after the summit, Syrian officials visited Tehran and made statements that contradicted the essence of the summit resolutions."

Aziz said: "This is a violation of Arab solidarity, leaving no room for improvement" in Syrian-Iraqi relations. He denied that Baghdad had been making media attacks on Damascus, "unless they are talking about what was written after the statements by Syrian officials, but this is normal practice. We have to make our position clear."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharar, also attending the Amman conference, told the Jordan Times Wednesday that "there are no (Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation) efforts now." He also said: "Syria is refraining from replying to the hostile media campaign from Baghdad."

Charges against the defendants

include destruction of documents, accepting gratuities, obstruction of justice and lying to Congress.

Turkey protests Iranian air raid

ANKARA (R) — Turkey accused Iran Friday of deliberately bombing the country's main border crossing point with Iraq.

pean countries.

Turkey borders Iran and Iraq but is neutral in the war.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is due to travel to Baghdad with a delegation of businessmen and officials April 1 following a similar visit to Tehran in February.

Peres reelected leader of Labour

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Labour Party has reelected Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as party leader and his candidate for the premiership in elections this fall, Israel army radio reported.

Peres told the party's central committee Thursday he would run against the right-wing Likud bloc on a platform favouring initiating peace process with the Arabs immediately.

"We will opt for a political solution," Peres told a cheering audience after the balloting for party leader, in which he was the only candidate.

"The camp of intimidation rejects any political solution," said Peres, referring to the Likud.

"The camp of hope believes in such a solution. And there is such a solution."

The radio said one delegate voted against Peres in the 1,250-member committee which is the key party institution, but did not identify the delegate.

Palestinian official killed in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A top Palestinian official loyal to Yasser Arafat was killed in inter-Palestinian clashes at a refugee camp near this southern Lebanese town Friday, Palestinian sources said.

They said clashes flared for 30 minutes between Palestinian fighters Fatah and fighters loyal to Jamil Suleiman, a former Fatah official, Farid Hourani.

Iranian officials in Ankara said the protest focused on an Iraqi attempt to bomb the Kotel railway bridge Thursday.

The Turkey-Iran railway is the major transit route for Iranian supplies from Turkey and Euro-

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OPEC price committee to meet April 6

JAKARTA (R) — OPEC's price committee will meet on April 6-7 in Vienna to review strategy after recent falls in the spot price of crude, Indonesia's new Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said Friday.

He told reporters Friday any decision would be based on a review of audited production of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members for the first quarter of 1988, but Indonesia did not feel the need for a new pricing or production formula.

Giving the first officially announced dates for the meeting, Ginandjar said: "First we will study the results of the auditing team, and only then we will decide what to do."

The OPEC special committee comprises Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Algeria, Venezuela and Nigeria.

It was set up last December to monitor prices and check whether member of the group are sticking to assigned output quotas.

News of the planned meeting has helped spot prices recover. The five-member committee is empowered to call an emergency meeting of the 13-member group.

Saudi Arabia had asked for the

five-man ministerial committee to meet immediately, while OPEC President Rilwan Lukman said it would convene in the first week of April, but officials said the meeting could not be held until after the April 1-4 Easter holiday.

Ginandjar, who replaced energy minister Subroto in a cabinet announced last week, said he did not see the need for a new OPEC pricing or production formula but it would be up to the OPEC pricing panel to decide.

He said the main constraint now facing OPEC was production coming on stream from new non-OPEC suppliers like North Yemen and Angola. "But the key factor is that OPEC remains united," he declared.

Subroto, widely regarded as a respected voice for moderation within OPEC, will attend the Vienna meeting as an adviser, Ginandjar said.

"I'll bring pak (Mr.) Subroto because this will be the first time I attend (an OPEC meeting)," he said.

Ebeid said slow-moving payments up to next June 30 on Egypt's \$43-billion foreign debt would eventually be completed.

He said Egypt would seek a fresh Paris Club accord to reschedule payments from July 1 "unless we get a considerable increase in our resources like the oil price going up to 1985 levels." Egypt is a leading non-OPEC producer.

Ebeid said a review by IMF experts of Egypt's performance, which started this month, would continue next week. Central Bank Governor Salah Hamid would go to Washington on April 14 "probably for a third round if accord signed last May."

"The dialogue is on, it will continue. We intend to continue and we intend to agree with the IMF," Ebeid told Reuters in an interview which provided rare insight into how the most populous Arab state sees relations with the fund.

Ebeid said the IMF and Egypt agreed more effort was needed to

reduce the budget deficit and the government had to do this by increasing revenue rather than cutting spending.

He said the issue of state subsidies, which keep basic goods and services much cheaper than world levels, was not raised.

But Egyptians could expect a review of the taxation system — not necessary a tax increase but better collection.

"Only 50 per cent of what should be collected is collected," Ebeid said.

He said there was no dispute with the IMF on unifying Egypt's exchange rates, but they disagreed on how fast Cairo should abolish its artificially-low central bank rate of 0.70 pounds to the dollar at which subsidised foods are imported.

Switching such purchases to the market rate of about 2.25 pounds to the dollar could harm the poor, he said.

"If you transfer more than the

"This is necessary considering Mr. Subroto's expertise and experience as mines and energy minister for the past 10 years. He will introduce me to other OPEC ministers," he said.

Some oil industry executives had publicly said the loss of Subroto was a serious setback to OPEC and he would be missed in difficult negotiations.

Traders expect output cuts

Oil industry analysts in Tokyo said that the stage is set for OPEC to cut oil production and engineer a recovery in world crude oil prices.

"If the OPEC price committee decides to recommend a production cut, we'll have a significant rise in prices," said one international oil trader.

Some oil traders said Saudi Arabia had been gearing up to assert its power over the 13-nation OPEC group.

They said Saudi Arabia was the prime mover behind recent non-OPEC oil producer talks among Egypt, Oman, China, Mexico, Angola, Malaysia and Colombia.

The seven non-OPEC oil producers will soon announce steps to help boost world oil prices, a senior Arab oil industry source in Bahrain said.

"I think Saudis have been working behind the scenes to get the cooperation from non-OPEC producers," said one Japanese oil trader.

"Now OPEC has got some support from non-OPEC oil producers, it can take further steps to stabilise the market," he said.

A Saudi move last week to sell its oil at cheaper prices was interpreted by some traders as a sign that the big Middle East producer intends to demand an OPEC output cut.

"Saudi Arabia is now in a position to keep its production high even in a very bad market — now is a good time for Saudi (Arabia) to threaten the other members," said the trader.

He said Saudi Arabia, which accounts for more than 25 per cent of OPEC oil output, could threaten to take market share from other member countries if they refused to follow the Saudi call for production cuts.

"If OPEC really wants to raise the market, they have to agree (to) a production cut, but all the members are not yet ready to do this," said a Japanese refiner.

"They're buying time."

"I tend to think they're just trying to muddle through," said an oil analyst.



Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud addresses a scientific gathering on bee-breeding in Jordan (Petra photo).

Hmoud stresses importance of increasing honey production

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud Thursday said that Jordan imported 278 tonnes of honey worth JD 220,000 in 1986, because the local production was only 90 tonnes, or 33 per cent of the local demand, while the world production reached one million tonnes a year.

Inaugurating a scientific day on bee-breeding organised by Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the University of Jordan Agriculture Faculty, Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen and USAID, Hmoud said that the per capita share of honey is 138 grammes, 32 of which are only produced locally.

Hmoud added that technical studies have shown that it is possible to double and treble the number of modern bee hives in order to achieve self sufficiency in honey.

Hmoud expressed hope that the participants will have the opportunity to come up with practical objectives that would serve bee-breeders and provide them with incentives to increase their honey production capacity.

Agriculture Faculty Dean Mahmoud Duweiri said that bee-breeding has become one of the important agricultural professions worldwide in view of the high price of honey and the increasing demand for it.

He pointed out that there are more than 50 million bee hives around the world, the average production of each is 20 kilogrammes.

The number of bee hives in Jordan is some 20,000 and the average production of each one is only five kilogrammes.

Jordan to stage industrial exhibition in Tunis next month

TUNIS (Petra) — The Third Jordanian industrial exhibition will be held in the Tunisian capital April 13, the director of the Jordanian Trade Centre in Tunis, Samir Arabit, has said.

Arabit added that the exhibition reflects the interest of both countries to develop trade relations.

He noted that Jordanian products are popular and easily marketable in Tunisia because they are of a high quality and are manufactured in accordance with standard specifications.

Arabit added that more than 40 companies will take part in the exhibition and will sell their products directly to the public, in accordance with the \$2.5 million quota that has been agreed upon between both countries.

Tomato plant stops operations

KARAK (Petra) — The tomato paste factory in Ghor Al Safi has stopped production Thursday because the quantities of tomato received by the factory were not sufficient for its operation, Ghor Al Safi Marketing Centre director Radi Tarawneh said Thursday.

Tarawneh added that the factory, since its commissioning on Feb. 16, received 2,200 tonnes of tomato, thus contributing to stabilisation of tomato prices in the market and ensuring benefits to the farmers in the Jordan Valley.

U.S. court approves Texaco bankruptcy reorganisation plan

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (R) — A U.S. judge has approved Texaco Inc.'s reorganisation plan aimed at taking the third-largest U.S. oil company out of chapter 11 bankruptcy and ending its long legal battle with Pennzoil Co.

Bankruptcy Judge Howard Schwartzberg announced his decision after a confirmation hearing that began Tuesday.

A favourable ruling had been expected after a majority of Texaco's shareholders approved the proposal and others dropped their objection to the plan.

Texaco's largest shareholder, Carl Icahn, voted for the plan but still objected to a provision protecting management from shareholder suits.

The heart of the reorganisation plan is a \$3 billion payment to Pennzoil to settle the companies' dispute over Texaco's 1984 takeover of Getty Oil Co.

Texaco courts had upheld a record \$10.3 billion judgment against Texaco for illegally interfering with Pennzoil's existing agreement to buy a controlling stake in Getty. Texaco filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy, which protects it from its creditors.

But at a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen of Texas indicated interest in the idea despite Baker's concern.

Bentsen, co-chairman of the Senate-House Conference Committee negotiating a trade bill, said he "hoped to find some accommodation" for the registry of foreign investors.

The proposal under consideration by both chambers would require investors buying more than five per cent of a U.S. firm with assets of \$5 million or more to list their identity and holdings.

The information would be publicly available.

Democrat Tom Harkin of Iowa, who proposed the original Senate version, said foreign investment in the United States has tripled in the past five years to \$1.5 trillion and was a contributing factor to making the United States one of the world's debtor countries instead of a creditor.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8290/8300	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2415/25	Canadian dollar
	1.6800/07	Deutschmarks
	1.8860/70	Dutch guilders
	1.3900/10	Swiss francs
	35.14/19	Belgian francs
	5.7025/55	French francs
	1243/1244	Italian lire
	125.77/87	Japanese yen
	5.9300/50	Swedish crowns
	6.3150/3200	Norwegian crowns
	6.4300/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	450.40/450.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed sharply lower as selling pressure hit all sectors. Early nervousness in industrials caused by Wall Street's Thursday drop spread to other areas. The All Ordinaries index fell 25.7 points to 1,424.5.

TOKYO — Share prices closed lower after Wall Street's 44-point and a faltering dollar. The Nikkei index fell 154.57 to 25,626.71.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed weak but off the day's lows after trading overshadowed by Wall Street's sharp drop. Fears that local banks might raise interest rates added to the fall. The Hang Seng index closed 44.47 points lower at 2,501.93.

SINGAPORE — The market closed moderately lower across the board under some selling pressure and profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index fell 12.85 to 945.60.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered selectively in restricted dealings after the exchange authorities doubled daily margins on sales in 18 leading shares, effective immediately.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed sharply lower as large losses in New York and other major centres added to local worries. The Commerzbank index, set at mid-session, fell 44.8 to 1,379.9.

ZURICH — Swiss prices closed sharply lower but slightly above the day's lows in low turnover.

PARIS — Shares ended the continuous session down but above their morning lows in quiet pre-weekend trading.

LONDON — Prices were improving quietly but steadily in late trading after the market fell sharply on U.K. balance of payments data. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 14.3 at 1,768.4.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed small losses in early trading. The Dow 30 index was unchanged at 2,024.

White House warns against foreign investor registry

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior Reagan administration official warned Thursday that forcing foreign investors to publicly disclose their U.S. holdings could damage the U.S. economy by driving up interest rates.

Treasury Secretary James Baker urged Congress to "consider long and hard the risk of higher interest rates they are inviting" with plans for public registry of foreign investors.

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Steffi Graf

Graf, Evert reach Florida tennis final

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany defeated unseeded American Stephanie Rehe 6-3, 6-1 Thursday to reach the final against Chris Evert at the \$2.1 million International Players Championships.

Earlier in the day, Evert, ranked third in the world, eliminated compatriot American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 6-1. Fernandez had beaten third seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina.

Rehe, 34th in the world, took a 2-0 lead in the first set by breaking Graf in the first game of the match, but the 18-year-old West German broke back in the fourth game for 2-2. The two both held serve easily to 3-3.

Graf won her serve at 4-3 with a blistering forehand winner and took control of the match. Including that game, the defending champion won 10 of the last 11 games of the match as Rehe began having trouble with Graf's powerful groundstrokes.

Graf lifted her game going into the second set as she dominated eight of the first nine points of the set with her aggressive play. She repeatedly produced winners throughout the second set off Rehe's weak second serve.

Graf, who had beaten Rehe in their three previous meetings, said that the turning point of the match was when she won her serve at 3-3 and then began to attack Rehe's serve.

"I think I picked up my game then (at 3-3). I started stepping into my forehand, and she wasn't getting to the ball as well. She was aggressive in the beginning, but then her serve hurt her," Graf said.

Evert, who lost to Graf in the final of the Australian open, eliminated Fernandez, 28th in the world, from the baseline and won the 16-year-old by running her from side to side.

Evert said that she tried to lure Fernandez to the net because the teenager was having trouble with Evert's pinpoint passing shots.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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C.C. WEI, 1914-1987
Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A 3 2
♦ 6
♦ 10 8 7 5 3
♦ K Q 10
♦ A 9 7 6 5
♦ K Q J 10 9 8
♦ K Q 6 4 2
♦ A 7 6 3
♦ 4 2
♦ K 0 8 4
♦ A 7 3 2
♦ A 9
♦ 8 5
The bidding:

SOUTH West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♠

We are sad to learn of the sudden death of our good friend, C.C. Wei. While he was well known as the originator of the Precision System, about which we were among the first to write, we admired him even more for the effort he put into developing "bridge" players. It says much for the training methods he advocated that many of his protégés became world-class players.

In the early 1970s, Wei's team of young bridge stars burst upon the bridge scene and won several na-

tional team titles back-to-back. This hand is from the final of the 1971 Spingold Team Championship, in which the Precision team faced a squad of veteran internationalists.

In both rooms the final contract was four spades. The team of internationalists reached the game on the revealing auction shown; and West got off to the excellent lead of a trump. Declare won in dummy, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart on the table. When he tried to get back to hand with a diamond, East ruffed and returned a trump. West later took care to hold up the ace of clubs one round, and declarer could come to no more than nine tricks.

In the other room North knew his partner's opening bid was limited, so he could afford to make a direct lead to game and West got off to the unfortunate lead of the king of diamonds. East discarded a club as declarer won and returned a diamond. Since East sluffed another club on this trick, West cashed his ace of clubs and continued with a club for East to ruff. But that was the third and last trick for the defense.

The Precision team gained 12 International Match Points on the hand. That was 5 IMPs more than their total winning margin.

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Soviet troops sent to Armenia ahead of planned protest

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet troops have been sent into Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, ahead of a mass demonstration planned for Saturday, officials said Friday.

An Armenian Interior Ministry official reached by telephone in Yerevan said helicopters were patrolling over the city.

He was asked to confirm reports from Armenian activists that soldiers had been deployed ahead of the demonstration, called to demand that the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh be made part of Armenia.

"Yes, but I can't give you any information about this," he replied.

The official, who declined to give his name, said the city appeared "fairly calm."

Telephone links from Moscow to Yerevan have worked only sporadically for two days, and Western reporters have been banned from travelling to the

area since late February, when crowds of up to one million demonstrated in Armenia.

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lar rules on mass gatherings had been adopted in the republic, Armenia's neighbour in Soviet Transcaucasia.

They also said the Azerbaijani authorities had dissolved an organising committee formed in Nagorno-Karabakh last month.

The group, called the Krunk Committee, was accused of inciting people to stage anti-Socialist mass disturbances.

The Kremlin issued a statement Wednesday condemning "nationalistic and extremist manifestations" and saying it was intolerable for non-official groups to demand border changes.

As a result, it was not known whether the Karabakh Committee, organising the Yerevan protests was proceeding with plans to hold the demonstration Saturday.

New rules issued Thursday require people wishing to hold a demonstration to apply for permission 10 days in advance. This would make the new action illegal if it takes place.

Press officials in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, told Reuters simi-

400 million roubles (\$670 million) in capital investments would be injected into the region over seven years.

Lakhtin said "painful questions" about granting the region greater political autonomy should also be resolved but this was outside the government's authority, suggesting the matter would be decided by Communist Party leaders in Moscow and Azerbaijan.

Zori Balayan, one of two leading Armenian writers who discussed the regional dispute with Gorbachev last month, wrote in Izvestia that he approved of the plan. His support could help defuse further protests in Yerevan.

But a letter to Izvestia signed by four prominent Soviet intellectuals said the full truth had not yet been told about the Sungat bloodshed and warned that "new mistakes and crimes" could follow if the facts continued to be suppressed.

Opposition leader vows to get rid of Noriega

PANAMA CITY (AP) — An opposition leader returned to Panama vowing to rid the nation of military强人 General Manuel Antonio Noriega, whose cash-strapped government faces payday for its soldiers Friday.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, head of the Christian Democratic Party, arrived Thursday to find Panama in the midst of an anti-Noriega general strike, now in its fifth day, which has shut down more than 90 per cent of business and industry.

Noriega is the country's de facto leader by virtue of his influence as chief of the 15,000-strong defense forces.

On Friday, he must pay his troops. On Monday, he must come up with more money for retirees already forced to wait an extra week for their pensions.

A banking source who spoke on condition of anonymity said Thursday that the government had pleaded with local banks to hand over an estimated \$70 million in their vaults. But the banks said the money belonged to their depositors and they could not legally give it up.

On Thursday, Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcos G. McGrath met with Noriega. Church officials were expected to release a statement today on the meeting. McGrath had refused to discuss the talks, saying only that he was not negotiating Noriega's departure.

One objective

Only hours afterward, Arias Calderon arrived on a commercial flight from Miami and told a cheering crowd that Noriega must go.

His return had "but one objective — to get rid of Noriega," Arias Calderon said. He was accompanied by Christian Democratic leaders from Venezuela, Costa Rica and West Germany.

Arias Calderon, a likely presidential candidate in scheduled May 1989 elections, said he would meet with other opposition leaders to plan a strategy for ousting Noriega.

A month ago, the government refused to allow Arias Calderon to return to Panama, which he had left on a brief business trip.

The government stepped up its propaganda attacks Thursday against the United States and its military presence along the Panama Canal. The state radio station again urged Panamanians — particularly soldiers and youth — to be on guard against "any aggression by the United States."

The last of 670 military police and support personnel arrived Thursday at U.S. bases to beef up security.

Southern Command officials had said earlier the reinforcements were "simply good planning in view of the current unrest in Panama."

No plans for military action

U.S. President Ronald Reagan said Thursday he had no plans to take military action to get rid of Noriega.

"We're not going to be the big colossus of the North once again, coming in to ... our smaller neighbours' places of living and business and trying to guide and direct them," Reagan said.

On Friday, South Africa banned a political rally planned by ultra-conservative whites invoking sweeping security legislation for the first time against the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB).

A magistrate in the conservative mining town of Randfontein, west of Johannesburg, declared that the outdoor rally had been banned under the Internal Security Act.

AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche vowed that an indoor meeting would still take place in the town Friday, despite the ban.

Pretoria has issued numerous warnings to the AWB — whose emblem is a swastika-like symbol — to curb its political activities, but has not acted against the group until now.

Mandela, a part-time sociology student at Witwatersrand University, was addressing a rally of about 2,000 people to protest last week's detention without trial of university student leader Rosemary Hunter.

Mine managers acquitted

In another development, a South African court acquitted six managers of a major mining company of culpable homicide Thursday after they were charged with causing the deaths of 177 miners in the country's worst gold mine disaster.

The six were all officials at General Mining Union Corporation's Kinsman mine where a fire swept through underground tunnels in 1986, spreading toxic fumes that resulted in the highest

death toll in South Africa's gold mining history.

A seventh employee, Frederick Vivers, a welder at Kinsman, was found guilty on two charges of contravening mining regulations and fined 100 rand (\$50).

The mine's manager, Jacobus Olivier, and General Mining Director John Bourke were both cleared of culpable homicide and spate of charges under South Africa's Mines and Works Act.

The others acquitted were three underground managers and a subordinate manager.

The court found that the fire was caused when a gas cutting torch ignited a foam lining in one of the mine's main underground tunnels. The burning foam sent deadly fumes shooting through the underground workings, causing most of the deaths.

A magistrate found that the managers could not be held responsible because no one at the mine had known they had been supplied with the foam, which is banned in British coal mines as a safety hazard.

The disaster prompted the 300,000-member black National Union of Mineworkers to accuse South Africa's white mining companies, particularly General Mining, of negligence and slack safety standards.

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